

A Little of This, A Little of That...

7th - 8th Grade Reading Suggestions

- J-Alv** **Alvarez, Julia. Before We Were Free.**
In the early 1960's in the Dominican Republic, 12-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of dictator General Trujillo.
Historical Fiction
- J-Ard** **Ardagh, Philip. A House Called Awful End.**
When Eddie Dickens's ill parents become "a bit crinkly round the edges," he is taken by his great-uncle, Mad Uncle Jack and Mad Aunt Maud, and embarks on adventures that involve strolling actors, St. Horrid's Home For Grateful Orphans, and a carnival float shaped like a giant cow. For all the Lemony Snicket fans (this is the first of three volumes.)
- J-Arm** **Armstrong, Jennifer. The Kindling. (Fire-Us Trilogy)**
In 2007, a small band of children have joined together in a Florida town, trying to survive in a world where it seems that all the adults have been killed off by a catastrophic virus.
Science Fiction
- J-Bar** **Barrett, Tracy. Cold In Summer.**
At the beginning of 7th grade, Ariadne moves to a Tennessee town near a former farming community submerged under a man-made lake and meets the ghost of a girl from the past.
Horror
- J-Bau** **Bauer, Marion Dane. Runt.**
Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father, King, and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name. *Animal Story*
- J-Car** **Carbone, Elisa. Pack.**
Akhil Vyas, a new boy in school, reluctantly decides that in order to prevent a violent crime, he must tell Omar and Becky his secret.

- J-Col** **Colfer, Eoin. Artemis Fowl.**
Artemis is sort of a bad-boy Harry Potter in this book of magic, mystery and humor. There is even a secret code to crack.
- J-Cre** **Creech, Sharon. Love That Dog.**
A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. This is a good one to share with your teacher.
- J-Cus** **Cushman, Karen. Rodzina.**
A 12-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery. Great *Historical Fiction*! Rodzina is a wonderful character.
- J-Fle** **Fletcher, Susan. Walk Across the Sea.**
In late 19th century California, when Chinese immigrants are being driven out or even killed for fear they will take jobs from whites, 15-year-old Eliza Jane McCully defies the towns-people and her lighthouse keeper father to help a Chinese boy who has been kind to her. *Historical Fiction*
- J-Gai** **Gaiman, Neil. Coraline.**
This is a creepy story of time travel, ghosts, a talking cat and some very weird adults. Very different.
- J-Hia** **Hiaasen, Carl. Hoot.**
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. Funny and good – another good one to share with your teacher.
- J-Hol** **Holland-Crossley, Kevin. Arthur: the Seeing Stone.**
In late 12th century England, a 13-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own. *Fantasy*

- J-Kor** **Korman, Gordon. No More Dead Dogs.**
Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. Hilarious! Might make a good class read-aloud.
- J-Low** **Lowry, Lois. The Silent Boy.**
Katy, the precocious 10-year-old daughter of the town doctor befriends a retarded boy. Very good story.
- J-Mar** **Marston, Elsa. The Ugly Goddess.**
14-year-old Princess Meret is unhappy with her future as consort of the Egyptian god Amun, especially after meeting Hector, a handsome Greed soldier, but when she is kidnapped, it is up to Hector and a young servant boy to help rescue her with the aid of the goddess Taweret.
- J-Mar** **Martin, Ann. A Corner Of the Universe.**
The summer that Hattie turns 12, she meets the child-like uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.
- J-McC** **McCaughrean, Geraldine. The Kite Rider.**
In 13th century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, 12-year-old Haoyou has a life-changing adventure when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler, Kubla Khan. *Historical Fiction* and a great adventure, too.
- J-Par** **Park, Linda Sue. When my name was Keoko.**
With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely. Excellent *Historical Fiction*!

- J-Tol** **Tolan, Stephanie. Surviving the Applewhites.**
 Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home-schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had. Zany family!
- J-Van** **Vande Velde, Vivian. Heir Apparent.**
 While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, 14-yea-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.
Science Fiction/Fantasy

Some Good Non-Fiction

- J** **Cooper, Ilene. Jack: the Early Years Of John F. Kennedy.**
921 A description of the childhood and youth of John Fitzgerald
Kennedy Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president of the United States. A very good biography of a boy who grew up to be President.
- J** **Crowe, Chris. Getting Away With Murder: the True Story**
364.152 **of the Emmett Till Case.**
C Presents a true account of the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955. By the author of Mississippi Trial, 1955, a fictionalized account of the case. Try both.
- J** **Murphy, Jim. Inside the Alamo.**
796.403 An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo. Includes sketches and quotations from some of those involved.
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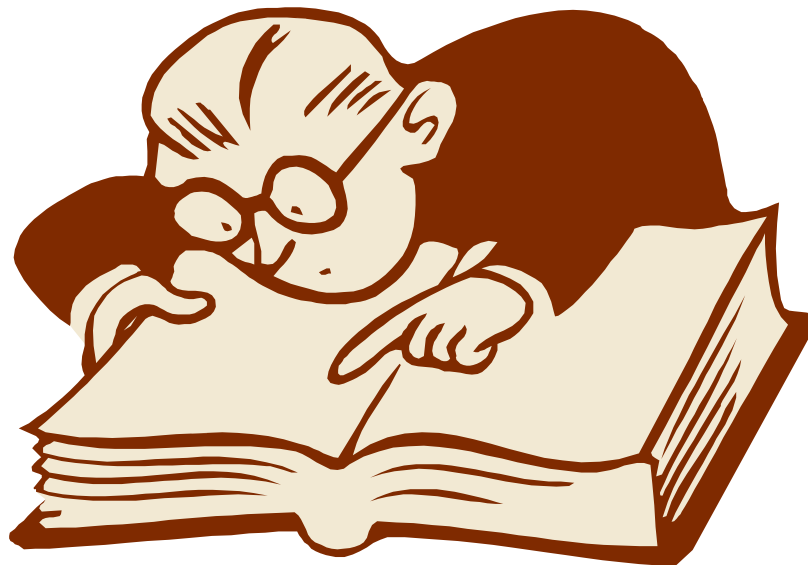
Murphy, Jim. An America Plague, the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.

Read this true account along with the novel Fever by Laurie Halse Anderson – in 1793 Philadelphia, 16-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

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Nelson, Peter. Left For Dead: a Young Man's Search For Justice For the USS Indianapolis.

Recalls the sinking of the USS Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight 55 years later. This book started as a school report! Really good!



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